GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2809
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2005
DEMANDS OF REPRESENTATIVE ORGANIZATIONS
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn toward the Joint charter of demands of the forty farmers representative organizations from all over country;

(b) if so, whether the above charter of demands was sent to the Government by these organizations in December 2004;

(c) if so, the facts in this regard;

(d) the details of the demands placed before the Government by these organizations; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION {SHRI KANTiLAL BHURIA):

(a) to (d) Letters have been received from Shri P.Chengal Reddy, C/o Confederation of Indian Industry and Shri Sanat Mehta of Gujarat Pradesh Nationalist Congress Party in the month of December 2004. The demands raised by the Farmers Associations are related to:

(i) Policy issues:

1. Need for separate Union Budget presentation by Minister for Agriculture.

2. Need to consider inclusion of Agriculture in concurrent list.

3. Government should take steps to prepare National Agriculture index.

4. Transport cost for agricultural produce and other allied products be subsidized (both for interstate transport and overseas transport).

5. Disinvestment in public sector and reinvestment in irrigation sector.

6. Reorganizing Commodity Boards and establi shing new Commodity Boards.

(ii) Financial issues:-

1. Agricultural credit facility from banks should be enhanced and the rate of interest should be fixed 6% P.A.

2. Crop Insurance.

3. Tax holiday on agriculture implements to achieve global competitiveness.

4. Saving 30,000 crore crop losses from pests and diseases.

5. Assistance for seed replacement for resource poor farmers.

6. Assistance for breed improvement.

7. Rationalising duties on imported agricultural commodities.

(iii) Agriculture Ministry issues:-

1. Minimum support prices - to be converted as remunerative prices.

2. Give Status of Agriculture to Aqua-culture & Poultry.

3. National Aqua-culture Development Board.

4. To activise and enlarge the activities of agriculture TV channel.

(iv) Infrastructural issues:-

1. Encourage value addition, cold storage and agro-processing in a big way.

(e) Agriculture being a State Subject, the State Government is responsible for implementation of policies and programmes for development of agriculture in the States. The Union Government recognizes its responsibility towards the agriculture; sector. Steps are accordingly undertaken by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. Plan provision have been made to enhance agricultural production and productivity through various schemes and programmes to raise the income of farmers and for augmentation of their living standards. The plan allocations inter-alia covercrop production programmes marketing reforms and creation of marketing&storage infrastructure like godowns and cold storages, soil and water conservation, on Farm Water Management to provide irrigation facilities in Eastern India, plant protection measures, cooperation, horticulture development and promotion of high yielding varieties of seeds. Promotion of

agricultural extension throughscheme of Mass Media support to Agriculture Extension under which existing infrastructure of Doordarshan, All India Radio and Indira Gandhi National Qpen University (IGNOU) to provide information to the farrrfing community is being utilized. Under risk management number of schemes like National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, Minimum Support Price Scheme and Market Intervention Scheme are being implemented as a safety net for farmers..